HO-801, Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel 1867, ca. 1900 Private

#### CAPSULE SUMMARY

The Joseph Travers House, at 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel, was built in several phases and now faces north east on the southwest side of Whiskey Bottom Road. The two-story, three bay, frame Folk Victorian's front section is actually the second major building phase; the middle section of the house, two stories with two rooms on each floor, is supposedly the earliest part of the building. The two-story rear wing of the house is a 1980's addition that is very compatible with the historical architecture. The front section of the house takes a tri-gable, center hall form with a side gabled roof with a small central cross gable. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the roof of the front section of the house on either side of the center hall. The middle section of the house has a gabled roof perpendicular to the roof on the front section of the house. Another interior brick chimney is centrally located at the ridge of the roof of the middle section of the house. The entire house, including the modern addition, is clad in wooden German siding and the roof is asphalt shingle. The front and rear sections of the house rest on brick foundations. The middle portion of the house may rest on a stone or composite masonry foundation (it is not visible from the exterior but stone is visible in the cellar). The house now sits on three acres surrounded by residential development but, in the early 20th century, was associated with 10 acres and a working farm.

The Joseph Travers House is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture. It is a very well maintained example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Folk Victorian with a potentially earlier wing and is one of the last historic dwellings on Whiskey Bottom Road. It seems very likely that a dwelling was first built on the property around 1862, additional improvements were made around 1867, structures were removed from the property for some reason around 1880, and the existing Folk Victorian dwelling was constructed around 1890 or 1900 by Joseph Travers.

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

HO-801

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate prefer	red name)				
historic	Joseph Tra	vers House					
other							
2. Location							
street and number	9309 Whis	key Bottom Road				not for public	cation
city, town	Laurel					vicinity	
county	Howard						
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and ma	ailing addresses of	f all owners)			
name	John Armst	rong					
street and number	9309 Whis	key Bottom Road			telephone		
city, town	Laurel		state	MD	zip code	20723	
Contributing Contributing Determined Determined Recorded by	Resource in Nati Resource in Loc Eligible for the Na	f Additional Date on al Register District al Historic District ational Register/Maryland National Register/Maryland Research Report	d Register				
6. Classifica	tion					,.4	0
Category  district  X building(s)  structure  site  object	Ownership  public X private both	Current Function agriculture commerce/trade defense X domestic education funerary government health care industry	landscape recreation/cu religion social transportatio work in progr unknown vacant/not in other:	ulture n ress	Contributing  3  Number of Copreviously lise	Noncontrib	buildings sites structures objects Total

#### 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-801

#### Condition

X	excellent		deteriorated
	good		ruins
_	fair	_	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Joseph Travers House, at 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel, was built in several phases and now faces north east on the southwest side of Whiskey Bottom Road. The two-story, three bay, frame Folk Victorian's front section is actually the second major building phase; the middle section of the house, two stories with two rooms on each floor, is supposedly the earliest part of the building. The two-story rear wing of the house is a 1980's addition that is very compatible with the historical architecture. The front section of the house takes a tri-gable, center hall form with a side gabled roof with a small central cross gable. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the roof of the front section of the house on either side of the center hall. The middle section of the house has a gabled roof perpendicular to the roof on the front section of the house. Another interior brick chimney is centrally located at the ridge of the roof of the middle section of the house. The entire house, including the modern addition, is clad in wooden German siding and the roof is asphalt shingle. The front and rear sections of the house rest on brick foundations. The middle portion of the house may rest on a stone or composite masonry foundation (it is not visible from the exterior but stone is visible in the cellar). The house now sits on three acres surrounded by residential development but, in the early 20th century, was associated with 10 acres and a working farm.

The front (north) façade of the house is three bays wide with a central door on the first story flanked by one 2/1 window on each side. The door is glazed and paneled with a stained glass transom. On the second story, the central bay holds paired 1/1 windows flanked by one 2/1 window on each side. In the central cross gable there is a square one-light fixed window. The window sills are wood and the exterior window trim has a simple bead. Vertical corner boards also have a simple bead. A one-story full width hipped roof porch stretches across the front façade. The wood floored porch has turned supports and lacks a balustrade. Two extremely ornate lightning rods are found on the peak of the central cross gable and the peak of the east gable. The rods appear to be twisted wrought iron that flares in the middle to form a sort of cage. In the 'cage' is a red glass ball about the size of a baseball.

On the east side façade of the house, all three building phases are visible. In the front section of the house, there are two 2/1 windows on the first floor and paired 1/1 windows on the second floor. A square one-light window is found in the gable and there is a two-light window in the foundation. The central section of the house, the portion that is supposedly older, has two 2/2 windows on the second story and a door and a window on the first story. The first story is entirely covered by an enclosed porch and it is unclear if the door opening onto this porch is original. If this section of the house is earlier than the front section, it seems very likely that this would have been the front façade of the older house and the door opening may in fact be original. The 1980 addition on the rear of the house compliments the historical nature of the house very nicely. There is a glazed and paneled door on the first floor along with a 2/2 wooden window and a paired 1/1 and a 2/2 window on the second floor. The door is sheltered by a hipped roof porch that is supported by turned supports that match those on the front porch of the house. This portion of the house is also clad in the same wooden German siding as the rest of the building.

The west side façade of the house is very similar to the east façade. The front section of the house has two 2/1 windows on the first floor and paired 1/1 windows on the second with a square one-light window in the gable and a two-light window in the foundation. The middle portion of the house has two 2/2 windows on the second story and an enclosed porch on the first story. Another lighting rod, similar to the other two but lacking the 'cage' and red ball, is found on the rear (south) peak of the middle section of the house. The 1980's addition has four 2/2 windows, a paired 1/1 window, and an arched vent in the gable on the west façade.

The rear (south) façade of the house is mostly the 1980's addition with several 2/2 windows, but part of the south façade of the middle section of the house is also visible. It has two vertically aligned 2/2 windows, one on each floor, and an arched vent in the gable.

Inside the house, the first and second period sections are identical. The front door enters into a central hall containing the stair to the second floor. The newel post for the stair is square and massive. Windows and doors have bulls eye corner blocks and wide reeded architraves. There is one room on either side of the hall and each has an original Franklin stove with elaborate carved mantles with columns. The stove inset is surrounded by tiles in both cases. From the back of the center hall a door opens into the dining room – one of the two rooms on the first floor of the original section of the house. The dining room has a Franklin stove and surrounding mantle identical to those found in the front section of the house and the window and door trim also matches the front section. A doorway from the dining room leads into the kitchen, also in the middle section of the house, which has been

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name

Joseph Travers House

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entirely, and beautifully, redone. What may originally have been a porch on the west façade of the middle section of the house is now a breakfast nook. An enclosed stair rises out of the kitchen, along the eastern wall. The 1980's addition is accessed via a hall connecting to the kitchen.

On the second floor, the floorplan is the same with two rooms and a hall in the front section of the house, two more connected rooms in the middle section, and a large master suite in the 1980's addition. Detailing throughout the two older sections is consistent.

There are two separate basements beneath the house. There is a brick walled, cement floored basement beneath the front section of the house that is used for storage and mechanical systems. There is a completely separate basement beneath part of the middle section of the house which has been turned into a wine cellar. This basement is accessed via a stair from what is now the enclosed porch on the east side of the building. This stair is stacked beneath the enclosed stair to the second floor. This portion of the basement has a dirt floor and some stone in the walls. Unfortunately, in the conversion to a wine cellar, insulation was added to the ceiling and most of the wall space and it is not possible to see the construction details that could determine conclusively if this part of the house is in fact earlier than the front section.

There are now two outbuildings associated with the house. A brick and cinder block garage with a gambrel roof is located just to the southeast of the house. A frame outbuilding on a brick foundation is located behind, and slightly down hill from, the house. This outbuilding was falling down in the 1980's and was rebuilt by the current owner using salvaged materials where possible. According to a neighbor, this building was originally used to house animals. Most of the remaining three acres associated with the property is a grassy lawn, though the property is dotted with mature trees.

o. Sigiiiii	Carice	3		inventory 146.	10-801
Period1600-16991700-1799 X1800-18991900-19992000-	ag ar ar co co	of Significance griculture gricul	Check and justify  economics  education  engineering  entertainment/ recreation  ethnic heritage  exploration/ settlement	w below  health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime industry military	performing arts philospohy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dat	35500	1867, 1900		Architect/Builder un	known
Constructio	n dates	1867, ca. 1900			
Evaluation fo	or:				
N	ational Re	egister	Maryla	and Register	X not evaluated

Inventory No

Cianificance

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Joseph Travers House is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture. It is a very well maintained example of an early 20th century Folk Victorian with a potentially earlier wing and is one of the last historic dwellings on Whiskey Bottom Road. It seems very likely that a dwelling was first built on the property around 1862, additional improvements were made around 1867, structures were removed from the property for some reason around 1880, and the existing Folk Victorian dwelling was constructed around 1890 or 1900 by Joseph Travers.

The property associated with the Joseph Travers House was originally part of a grant called Sappingtons Sweep, 7 acres of which was sold to Susan Cole by William Sherwood, Jr. for a purchase price of \$200 in 1859. Susan Cole sold 2 ½ or 3 acres of that land to Robert Cole for \$125 in 1861. It is believed that Robert Cole and his wife Martha were the first to build on the 3-acre parcel because in 1863 they sold the same 3-acres for \$1000 - substantially more than they bought it for less than two years earlier. The 1860 Martenet map indicates that there is only one house located right on the south side of Whiskey Bottom Road between All Saints Church and the Turnpike - it is labeled A. Cole. The names of surrounding property owners, including Holland and Ober, appear in the boundary descriptions of the subsequent deeds for the 3-acre parcel in question. The same 3 acres and the improvements thereon changed hands again in 1866 for \$1200. It is believed that George B. Rowell improved the property further around 1867 because he sold the same 3-acre parcel that he bought in 1866 for \$1200 for a purchase price of \$2000 in 1868. The 3 acres were also clearly being cultivated in the 1860's because the deed from Rowell to James Abrams in 1868 specifically includes "the crops and vegetables now growing on the property." James Abrams and his wife Elizabeth sold the 3-acre parcel and the improvements to Henry Stotler for \$2000 in 1877. The property is shown on the 1878 Hopkins map of Howard County and the dwelling is labeled "Judge Abram." During the 8 years of Stotlers ownership, something happened to the property to devalue it. When Stotler sold the property in 1885 to Elias Travers, Travers only paid \$1000 for it. It is possible that one of the buildings on the property burned down sometime in that 8-year period, but whatever the reason, when Travers acquired the 3 acres, it was worth half as much as when Stotler acquired it. A court case in 1888 between various members of the Travers family resulted in Charles Stanley being named Trustee and authorized to sell the property. Joseph Travers bought the 3 acres for \$1000 in 1888 from Stanley. The deed wasn't executed until 1891 for some reason and in the 1891 deed, the property is described as "being the property upon which the said Joseph Travers now resides."

It is believed that Joseph Travers is the one who built the two-story Folk Victorian front section of the house and therefore it is his name that is appended to the structure as it stands today. Travers owned the property for 20 years and when he sold it to James Roseberry in 1908, the purchase price was \$2600. The deed from Travers to Roseberry describes the three-acre property as "being the same property upon which the said Joseph Travers and wife for a long time resided." Since the acreage remained the same, Travers clearly improved the buildings on the site in order to warrant a \$1600 price increase. Stylistically, a construction date of ca. 1900 fits very well with the Folk Victorian elements of the house. The Roseberrys acquired additional adjoining land to bring the total acreage to 10 acres during the early 20th century. Edward Kennedy, who purchased the property in 1939, sold off 7 acres

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-801

Name	Joseph Travers	House
Continu	ation Sheet	
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leaving the house on 3 acres. It is not known, however, how the boundary lines of the current 3-acre parcel compare to those of the late 19th century 3-acre parcel beyond the fact that they both surround the existing house.

The current owner believes that the rear wing (what is now the middle section) of the house predates the front two-story, three-bay section. According to the deed evidence, this is not out of the question since there do seem to have been structures on the property as early as 1862. Unfortunately, construction and stylistic evidence for such an early date is not visible in this section of the house. Instead, the interior detailing of this portion of the house matches the interior of the ca. 1900 section. And the insulating of what is now the wine cellar has obscured construction details visible from the basement that would at least indicate whether or not the rear wing was built at the same time as the front section. However, the presence of an enclosed stair in the rear wing of the house and a dirt floored basement beneath it that does not connect to the basement beneath the front section, in addition to the single pile, two room wide, two story configuration with a central chimney indicate that the rear wing certainly could have stood alone as a modest frame dwelling.

Mrs. Regene LePore lives next door to the Joseph Travers House now but her family actually owned the old house in the mid-20th century. Her father, Edward Kennedy, bought the property, which at that time consisted of 10 acres, in 1939 and Mrs. LePore moved in shortly thereafter when she was 18. She reports that the property was a working farm at least until the 1950's or 60's with some crops and cows, pigs, and chickens. When Mrs. LePore first moved to the area she reports that it was very rural and isolated. Only nine houses were located on Whiskey Bottom Road in between Route 1 and Route 216 and the dirt road was always either dusty or muddy.

The Joseph Travers House is a very well maintained example of a Folk Victorian dwelling. The Folk Victorian is a classic vernacular style in which folk house forms were decorated with stylistic details from Victorian pattern books. The symmetrical I-house form of the front section of the Joseph Travers House is a very common folk form, while the turned porch supports are indicative of the Victorian influence. The Joseph Travers House is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture and is one of the last remaining 19th century dwellings in this rapidly developing area.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of surveyed property 3	

Acreage of historical setting 3

Quadrangle name

Laurel

Quadrangle scale

1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 47, parcel 191. It is not known exactly how the modern boundaries compare to the historic boundaries beyond the fact that they both surrounded the existing house.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristin Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	9/30/03
street and number	3430 Court House Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD	zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032

410-514-7600

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Continua	ition She	eet						
Number	9	Page _	1			¥		

 $\hbox{Hopkins, G.M. ATLAS OF FIFTEEN MILES AROUND BALTIMORE INCLUDING HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND. Philadelphia, 1878. }$ 

Martenet, Simon. MARTENET'S MAP OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. Baltimore, 1860.

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Interview with Mrs. Regene LePore, September 17, 2003.

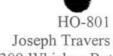
## HO-801

#### Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, Howard County

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Edward E. Kennedy		John Hayes Armstrong		July 17, 1979	952	737	Deed	2.94 acres, \$112,500 purchase price, describes several parcels sold off and describes the 2.94 acres being conveyed as the "rest and residue" of the property that was conveyed from Strahley to Kennedy.
Guy Frederick and Beatrice G. Strahley		Edward E. Kennedy		March 8, 1939	162	553	Deed	10 acres of land described by metes and bounds, same land conveyed from the Home Owners Loan Corporation to the Strahleys
Home Owners Loan Corporation		Guy Frederick and Beatrice G. Strahley		Dec. 15, 1936	156	24	Deed	10 acres of land, same property conveyed by J. Oliver Clark, Assignee to the Home Owners Loan Corporation
J. Oliver Clark, Assignee	Anne Arundel	Home Owners Loan Corporation		Sept. 1, 1936	155	69	Deed	The Barkmans defaulted on their mortgage and J. Oliver Clark was authorized to sell the property, totaling 10 acres, at auction where the Home Owners Loan Corporation bought it for \$5700. Property is the same conveyed from Houck to Barkman.
Frederick and Rose F. Houck	Baltimore City	George J. and Clara B. Barkman		Oct. 17, 1922	116	227	Deed	Four lots totaling 10 acres. Same property conveyed from Dixons to Houcks.

#### HO-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, Howard County

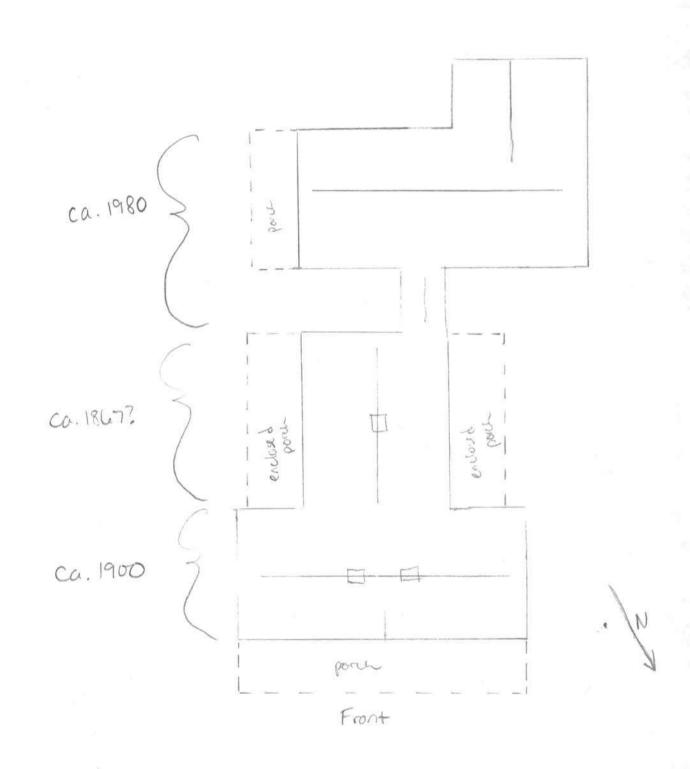
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Joseph B. and Nettie L. Dixon	Howard	Frederick and Rose F. Houck		Nov. 10, 1921	113	491	Deed	Four lots totaling 10 acres. Same property conveyed from Roseberry to Dixon.
James R. and Susannah Roseberry	Columbia, SC	Joseph B. and Nettie L. Dixon	Washington D.C.	Feb. 25, 1920	109	352	Deed	Four individually described lots totaling 10 acres. The four lots seem to be adjoining. Roseberry bought them from four different people. The three acre parcel he purchased is described as being the former residence of Joseph Travers and seems most likely to be the one containing the house.
Joseph and Mary E. Travers	Washington D.C.	James R. Roseberry	Laurel	April 1, 1908	85	329	Deed	The property totals 3 acres and is described as "being the same property upon which the said Joseph Travers and wife for a long time resided." Roseberry pays \$2600. The property is the same as that conveyed from Stanley to Travers in 1891.



# Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road Laurel, Howard County

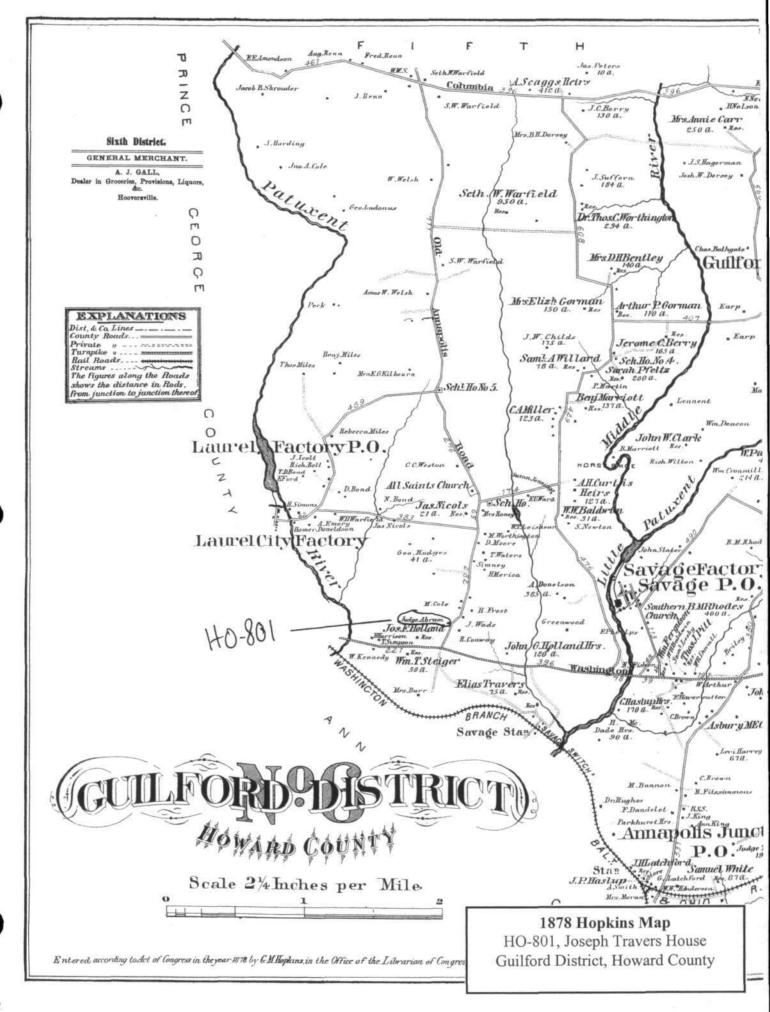
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Charles H. Stanley, Trustee		Joseph Travers		July 17, 1891	63	427	Deed	An equity case in Prince Georges County (Case No. 1693 Equity) between John H. Travers et al., complaintants, and Mary E. Travers et al, defendants, resulted in Charles Stanley being named Trustee and authorized to sell the property. Joseph Travers buys the 3 acre property for \$1000. The property is described as "being the property upon which the said Joseph Travers now resides. The deed indicates that Joseph Travers actually purchased the property from Stanley in 1888 but the deed wasn't executed until 1891. The property is described as the same property conveyed by Henry Stotler to Elias Travers.
Henry S. and Sallie Stotler	Washington D.C.	Elias Travers	Howard	August 6, 1885	49	596	Deed	\$1000, 3 acres, together with the buildings and improvements, same property conveyed from Abrams to Stotler.
James and Elizabeth Abrams	Howard	Henry Stotler	Washington D. C.	July 10, 1877	40	399	Deed	\$2000, 3 acres together with the improvements, same property conveyed by Rowell to Abrams.

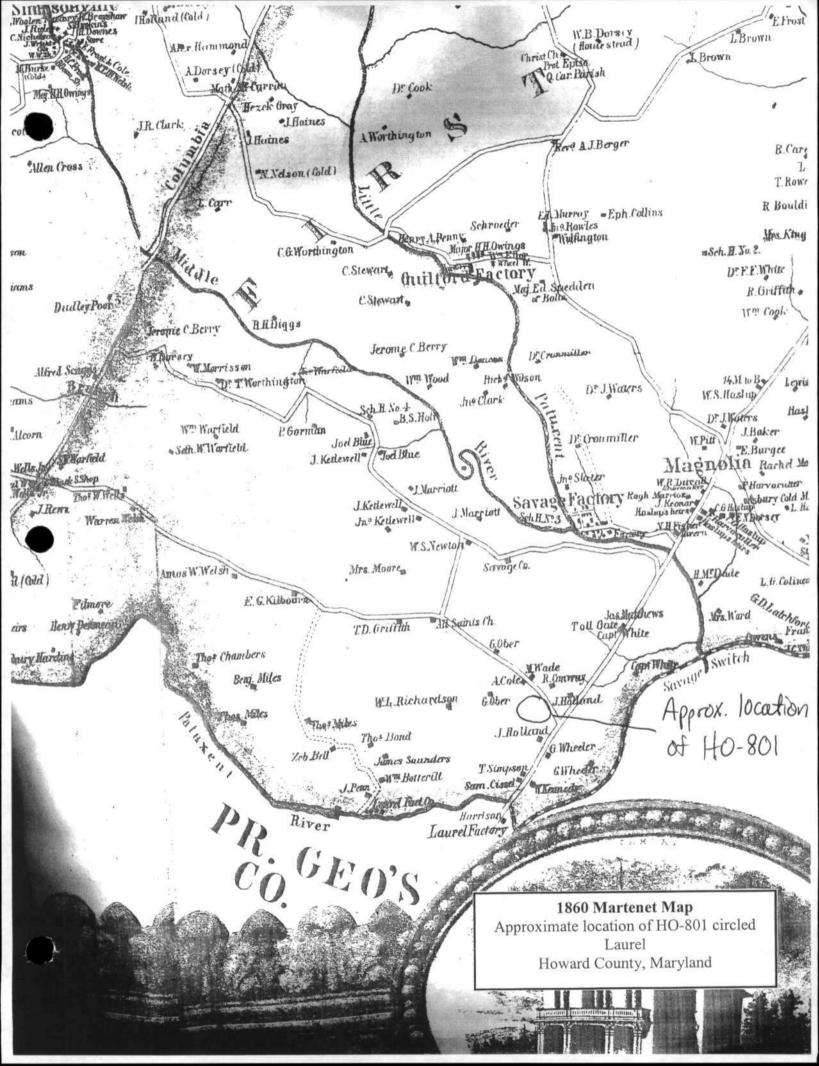
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
George B. and Margaret Rowell	Howard	James Abrams	Howard	August 17, 1868	30	149	Deed	\$2000, 3 acres together with the buildings and improvements, "including the crops and vegetables now growing on the property." Same property conveyed by Smith to Rowell and Cole to Smith.
James and Delilah Smith	Howard	George B. Rowell		April 24, 1866	25	499	Deed	\$1200, 3 acres together with the buildings, same land conveyed from Cole to Smith.
Robert and Martha Cole	Howard	James Smith	Washington D.C.	Jan. 19, 1863	22	455	Deed	\$1000, 3 acres together with tenements and appurtenances.
Susan Cole	Howard	Robert Cole	Howard	Sept. 26, 1861	21	628	Deed	\$125, described as 2 ½ acres more or less but property boundaries are the same as described in deed from Robert Cole to James Smith when the property is described as containing 3 acres.
William Sherwood Jr.	Baltimore County	Susan Cole	Howard	Aug. 7, 1859	20	318	Deed	\$200, 7 acres, part of "Sappingtons Sweep," description of property indicates that this 7 acre transaction includes the 3 acres that Susan Cole sells to Robert Cole in 1861.



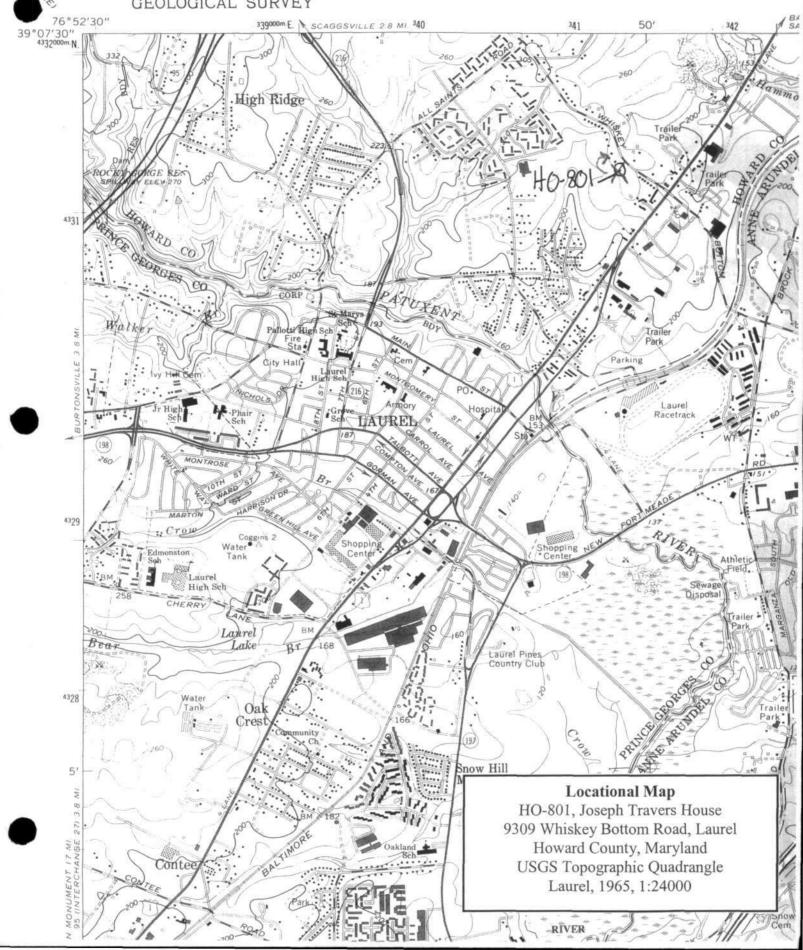
#### Sketch Map

HO-801, Joseph Travers House Showing building sequence Laurel, Howard County NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

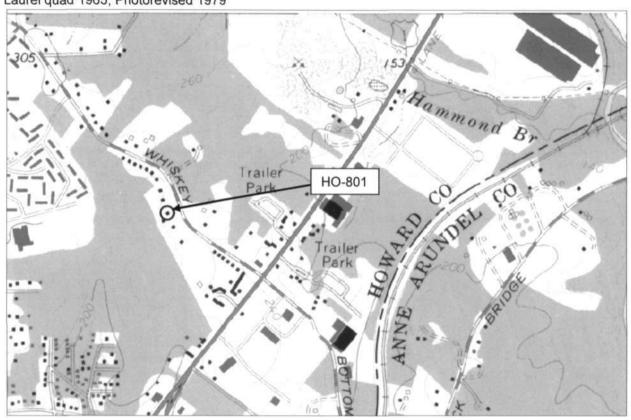




# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



HO-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel Laurel quad 1965, Photorevised 1979



Tax Maps 47 and 50, parcel 191 (of Map 47) National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010





HO-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Botton Rd, Laurel Howard County, MD 61 21+82 NHHNH 358 Knoth Hill, 9/03 Negative at MDSHPD NW elevation



HO-801
Joseph Travers House
9309 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel
Howard County, MD
78 21+813 HHHHH 35E
Kn3+M Hill, 9/03
Negative at MDSHPO
NW elevation, Ca. 1890 section



Ho.8011
Joseph Travers House
9309 Whisley Bottan Rd, Laurel
140word County. MD 69 21+88 HINNIN 358
Knistin Hill, 9/03
Negative at MOSHPO
Frant central bay. North facade.



HO.801
Joseph Travers House
9309 Whisley Botton Rd Laurel HINNIN 350
Howard County. MD
Kristin Hill, 9103
Negative at MDSHPO

East facade. Co. 1890 section is on right in photo; earlier section is 2-story section in center.



HO-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Botton Rd., Laurel Howard Lounty, MD 66 21+01 NNNNN 350 Kristin Hill, 9/03 Negative at MOSHPO East facade . ca. 1890 section is an right, earlier section is 2 Story, 2 bay section in middle, 1980's addition mostly concealed by trees on loft.



Joseph Travers House
9309 Whiskey Botton Rd., Laurel
Howard County. MD 64 21-100 HINHIH 350
Knoth Hill, 9/03
Negative at MOSHPO

East elevation. 1980's addition.



HO-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whisky Botton Rds taypelinn 350 Howard County, MD Knoth Hill, 9/03 Negative at MDSHPO SE elevation. Most of visible section is 1980's addition, part of south elevation of earlier section is visible beside tree on the right. 7/11



Ho.801

Joseph Travers House

9309 Whiskey Botton Rd., Laurel
Howard County. MD

Kristin Hill, 9/03

Negative at MOSHPO

West elevation, earliest portion of the house.



Ho-801

Soseph Travers House

9309 Whiskey Botton Rd, Elacired HAHAM 350

Howard County, MD

Known Hill, 9103

Negative at MOSHPO

Lightning rod on certial cross gable.



10-801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Botton Rd., Laurel Howard County. MD 65 21+01 NNNNN 350 Kristin Hill, 9/03 Negative at MDSAPO Garage and rebuilt frame outbuilding.



140.801 Joseph Travers House 9309 Whiskey Botton Rd., Lawel Howard County, MD Knistin Hill, 9/03 Negative at MDSHPT rebuilt frame outbuilding, NE elevation